



Resource for Tour Groups & Churches

Myths and Mysteries of the Amish/Mennonite World

True/False (See how many you can answer correctly)

1. The Amish are the oldest of the three major Anabaptist groups. (Amish, Mennonite, Hutterite) **False**
– *The Amish is the newest of the three groups forming in 1693, Hutterite 1528, Mennonite 1536.*
2. The Amish abhor technology. **False** – *The Amish use many forms of technology, but carefully control the use of technology which would tend to connect them to the world*
3. The Amish tend to be more successful in business than their counterparts in the modern world. **True**
– *Only about 5% of Amish businesses fail while the failure in businesses at large is closer to 50%.*
4. Amish parents typically raise about 12 children. **False** – *The typical Amish family has 7 children.*
5. The dialect the Amish speak (Pennsylvania Dutch) has its origin in Holland. **False**
– *Pennsylvania Dutch has its origin in Southern Germany.*
6. Only about 3-5% of the Amish make their living entirely from farming in Elkhart and LaGrange Counties. **True**
– *The high cost of farm land and the readily available good factory jobs make it almost impossible for the Amish to all make their living in farming.*
7. The Amish and Mennonites are nearly similar in attending higher education. **False** – *The Amish generally go only through the 8th grade while Mennonites are deeply involved in all forms of higher education.*
8. Amish youth are generally baptized at an older age than their Mennonite cousins are. **True**
– *Amish youths are generally older (18-21) while Mennonites may be baptized as young as 12 years old.*
9. The term “rumspringa” means running wild for young people. **False**
– *Rumspringa literally means “running around”. Some more rowdy Amish youth experiment with “worldly things” like going to movies, buying a car, wearing English clothes, and smoking and drinking.*
10. The Amish men begin to grow a beard after they are baptized. **False**
– *The beard comes at the time of marriage, however some groups do grow a beard after baptism.*
11. The Amish read more than the general public. **True** – *Not having TV and living a more simple lifestyle frees up more time for reading. Children and youth are voracious readers.*
12. The Reality series “Amish in the City” depicts the way Amish live in a very factual manner. **False**
– *While some things in the series are true, many were found to be false and fabricated.*
13. The Amish meet for church every week. **False** – *Each church district meets bi-weekly which allows members to attend neighbor districts’ Church or spend a quiet morning at home with the family.*
14. Amish courting and marriages are arranged. **False** – *A romance may begin when a young man asks to take a young woman home after a youth group singing.*
15. Amish and Mennonite are very civic minded in their communities. **True**
– *While most Amish and many Mennonites do not vote or take part in the military they are very good neighbors and will generally be available for the betterment of the local community*
16. The Amish do not pay taxes. **False** – *The Amish pay the same taxes as everybody else except Social Security. Many do not pay into the Social Security fund and do not collect any funds or Medicare.*
17. The Amish believe the Bible tells them to live the way they do. **False** – *While the Amish have many of their “ordnung” (rules) from scripture many are simply a conscious effort to avoid being part of the world’s culture.*